

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 IO-11 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 SAJ-01 EURE-00 /059 W

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P 101349Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6916

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1234

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEWTPFOR CVIS RO

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN CONLAN'S LIST OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS  
ALLEGEDLY PERSECUTED FOR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

REF: STATE 054722

1. REFTTEL'S ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT: REP. CONLAN'S LIST WAS NOT RPT NOT GIVEN TO ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES.
2. THE EMBASSY SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS NAMED AND RESPONDED WITH AMBASSADOR'S LETTERS TO GEN. SCOWCROFT OF OCTOBER 1. WAS SUGGESTED REPLY IN FACT SENT TO REP. CONLAN? PLEASE ADVISE AND POUCH COPY. (SUBSEQUENT CONLAN LETTER TO AMB NOV. 13 WAS ANSWERED BY CHARGE VIETS DEC. 4 EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO HELP ANYONE ON LIST QUALIFIED TO EMIGRATE TO U.S.)
3. WE SUGGEST MODIFYING PARAGRAPH THREE, REFTTEL, AS FOLLOWS:

--THE LIST WAS NOT TURNED OVER TO THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES BECAUSE (A) MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED AND (B) THE EMBASSY PREFERRED TO PREPARE A MORE GENERAL APPROACH TO THE GOR IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND IN TERMS OF OUR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONS, HOPEFULLY CONSULTING OTHER CONGRESSMEN AND NOT LIMITING OUR APPROACH TO JUST ONE LIST. MAIN CONSIDERATION HERE WOULD BE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AND USEFULNESS TO ROMANIAN BELIEVERS CONCERNED.

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--WHILE WE CAN AND DO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS WITH RELATIVES IN ROMANIA WHO ARE SEEKING TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES, THE GOR REGARDS ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS OWN CITIZENS AS A DOMESTIC AFFAIR IN WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE NO BUSINESS INTERVENING. WE THEREFORE INTEND TO APPROACH THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES ONLY WHERE SOLID LEGAL FOOTING EXISTS AND IN WAYS LIKELY TO HELP RATHER THAN HINDER THE SITUATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ROMANIAN CITIZENS INVOLVED. THE MATTER IS RENDERED PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE AT LEAST SOME OF THE BELIEVERS (FOR EXAMPLE MOISE URS) ON REP. CONLAN'S LIST ALLEGEDLY REFUSE TO BEAR ARMS IN DEFENSE OF ROMANIA, WHICH IS A VIOLATION OF ROMANIAN LAW AND OFFENDS THE PATRIOTIC FEELINGS OF MANY ROMANIAN CITIZENS.

4. IF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE WISH THE MATTER PURSUED FURTHER, THE EMBASSY COULD BE PROVIDED WITH AN UPDATED LIST AS WELL AS ANY OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT. WITH THIS INFORMATION, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH GOR, IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPROVING ROMANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, CARRYING OUT THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE HELSINKI CSCE ACT, AND SOLVING ROMANIAN-AMERICAN BILATERAL PROBLEMS THROUGH CLOSE CONSULTATION. (FYI: GOR'S DEPARTMENT OF CULTS WOULD BE POINT OF CONTACT).  
BARNES

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